

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BATHUR 00163 302205 Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01

SCSE-00 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 AGR-20 HUD-02 INRE-00

SSO-00 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 068509

P R 302114 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BATHURST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1273

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BATHURST 163

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: SWEL GA

SUBJ: FIRES IN THE GAMBIA

REF: BATHURST 162 AND STATE 57029 (NOTAL)

ROME FOR FODAG

1. WHILE DAMAGE TO VILLAGES FROM BUSH FIRES COMMON THIS TIME OF YEAR SITUATION MORE SERIOUS THIS YEAR WITH SERIES OF FIRES UP- COUNTRY LEAVING SOME 5000 HOMELESS, 700 MUDBRICK AND STRAW HOUSES INCLUDING PERSONAL POSSESSIONS TOOLS FOOD AND SEED GRAINS DESTROYED WITH FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO DROUGHT LATTER PARTICULARLY SERIOUS.

2. GAMBIA RED CROSS HAS HAD GOOD RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE HAS RAISED DOLLARS 2265 LOCALLY BRITISH RED CROSS CONTRIBUTING POUNDS STERLING 1000 AND SWEDISH RED CROSS LIKE AMOUNT. CHINESE EMBASSY (TAIWAN) CONTRIBUTED 100 LBS RICE
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PAGE 02 BATHUR 00163 302205 Z

LICROSS REPRESENTATIVE NUCLER HAS WRITTEN TO CARE
DIRECTOR SCHELLSTEDE IN MONROVIA REQUESTING ABOUT DOLLARS 10,000
FOR GAMBIAN RED CROSS TO PURCHASE SEED GROUNDNUTS SEED RICE AND
TOOLS.

3. BELIEVE ASSISTANCE NOW MOBILIZED INCLUDING DOLLARS 10,000
MADE AVAILABLE BY UNDRO AND FOOD GRAINS LOANED BY WFP FROM STOCKS
ALREADY HERE FOR SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH
IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. HOWEVER UNDP REP HERE HAS AGREED TO COORDINATE
REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AND KEEP ME AND BRITISH
HICOM INFORMED.

4. APPRECIATE ARRANGEMENTS REPORTED ROME 2448 FOR EARLY SHIPMENT
FOOD GRAINS THROUGH WFP AS FIRE DISASTERS HAVE HEIGHTENED
URGENCY.

5. JOINT UK- GAMBIAN DISASTER RELIEF COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE
BEING HELD IN GAMBIA MARCH 30 TO APRIL 26 INVOLVING ABOUT 100
BRITISH SERVICEMEN WAS SCHEDULED LONG BEFORE CURRENT FIRE DISAS-
TERS AND IS NOT RELATED TO THEM.
STRONG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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To: AF
DAKAR
GENEVA
LONDON
MONROVIA
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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